



COMMUNITY NEWS

District 3

Vol 15. Scottsdale Police Department District 3 Station 20363 N. Pima Rd. Scottsdale, AZ 85255 (480) 312-8800 November 2005

IN THIS ISSUE

1	Safe Surfing
2	Message from Commander Duggan
3	Crime Trend
4	Calendar of Events



Safe Surfing

By Officer Jason Glenn

The Internet is a useful and indispensable resource used for a variety of services. The Internet is utilized to reference information such as airline fares, encyclopedias, news, movie reviews, sports, stock quotes, and weather. Millions of people communicate through email with family, friends, and colleagues around the world. Children use the Internet to "I.M." or instant message their friends, play games, conduct research, email pictures to friends, or to "surf the web."

Technology has allowed children to explore and learn about places, people, and things around the world from the comfort of their own home. Unfortunately, the same advances in computer technology that allow our children to reach out to new sources of knowledge and entertainment are also leaving them vulnerable to exploitation and harm by computer savvy criminals. Seventy-eight percent of children live in homes in which either they or their parents have Internet access. Furthermore, one out of four children who use the Internet has been exposed to sexually explicit material. Children can be easily exposed to pornography or violent content. This information can be accidentally accessed by information searches and can be attached as an image or hyperlink sent to a child in an email or "spam."

The following are some tips for safe surfing for your family. Delete emails from unknown senders. Emails can have attachments such as viruses or worms that can be harmful to your computer.

Continued on page 2

MESSAGE FROM COMMANDER DUGGAN



Last month, our District experienced its 11th traffic-related fatality this year. Driver inattention and recklessness continue to be the primary casual factors behind most fatal traffic collisions in District 3.

While enhancing traffic safety is one of District 3's operational goals and a top priority for our officers, we ask for your support. Please remember to wear your seatbelt and be aware of traffic conditions around you. Avoid distractions (cell phones, radios, food, etc.) and be mindful of the posted speed limit. Together, we can all contribute to enhancing traffic safety in District 3.

Commander Sean Duggan
(480) 312-8803
Sduggan@scottsdaleaz.gov

Traffic Safety Zone

District 3 personnel will provide increased traffic enforcement on Pima Road during the month of November. Please drive carefully.



Safe Surfing (continued)

- Talk to children about the dangers of online chat rooms. It is impossible for them to determine whom they are talking to.
- Insist they never provide personal information to anyone online (name, address, school, age, birthday etc.).
- A child's screen name should not have any connection to their real name or their email address.
- Keep the computer in a shared area instead of their room. This allows for additional adult supervision.
- Install filters and tracking programs to monitor the websites and chat rooms your child visits.
- Instruct children not to fill out profiles for chat rooms. Profiles are often public information and accessible to anyone.

Be Safe in Cyberspace

Unfortunately, there are threats to your child's safety in cyberspace. The online world, like the rest of society, is made up of a wide array of people. The majority of people who go online are good people with good intentions. However, there are thousands of predators that can communicate with your children. These predators "lurk" in chat rooms and "I.M" programs looking for targets. Predators will use a tactic called "grooming" to build trust and friendships with children. He or she will work for months fostering this relationship often hiding their true identity. The predator will offer gifts and promises to ultimately lure the child to a meeting place. As a general rule, children should never plan to meet anybody in person whom they have met online. Explain that the people they meet online may not be who they say they are. Educate your children about predators in cyberspace and notify local law enforcement if a predator contacts your child.

By taking responsibility for your children's online computer use, parents can greatly minimize any potential risks of being online. Agree on a list of rules and post it by the computer. The rules should consist of the amount of time spent online, sites they may and may not visit, and chat room etiquette. Finally, talk to your children and keep the lines of communication open.

If you would like additional information on using the Internet safely or crime prevention information please do not hesitate to contact me at 480-312-8802 or jglenn@scottsdaleaz.gov

CRIME TREND

Avoiding Construction and Contracting Scams

Construction, contracting, and roofing scams are particularly common during the monsoon season. Individuals will often represent themselves as legitimate contractors and solicit business by going door to door offering unnecessary repairs to unsuspecting homeowners. Preventative measures can be taken to safeguard yourself from becoming a victim of a contracting scam.

Tips for Homeowners

1. Always check with the Registrar of Contractors to ensure that a contractor has a current Arizona license that is in good standing. Call 602-542-1525 or visit www.azroc.gov
2. Never hire a contractor that solicits his work going door to door or claims he can give you a great deal on leftover materials.
3. Never pay a contractor in cash only.
4. Always require a written proposal and/or contract from anyone bidding on your job.
5. Always ask for and check references.

Calendar of Events

District 3 Public Safety Day

Police personnel from District 3 and Target team members will be partnering in a joint Public Safety Day on Saturday November 5, 9:00-1:00 pm. 15444 N. Frank Lloyd Wright. Free services include: Vin-etching, bicycle registration, child fingerprinting, child safety seat inspections, police K-9 unit, and recruitment information.

The Scottsdale Police Department



Wants You!

The Scottsdale Police Department has excellent job opportunities in the following fields:

Police Officer, Police Aide, Communications, Detention Officers, Crime Lab, Records, and Crime Scene Specialists. Visit our website at www.Scottsdalepd.com or contact Officer Greg Carlin at 480-312-5384
gcarlin@scottsdaleaz.gov.